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[Soldiers Virtually Step Inside Mission with DSTS](#) (*Army.mil*, By Melissa K Buckley) Capt. Zebulon Pike, said he was able to design his own mission for his Soldiers to complete. "This DSTS is phenomenal in the sense that it allows us to utilize actual operational environments in Afghanistan, Iraq or wherever we want. This scenario was a product of my two tours of duty in Iraq. I wanted to reinforce warrior task and battle drills, and their HAZMAT (hazardous materials) training," Pike said.

[BOLC Instructor Selected For LATINA Style Award](#) (*Fort Lee Traveler*, Ray Kozakewicz) Awarded to just two women in the Army for each year, the Style award recognizes service, leadership, accomplishments, and commitment to building a strong community. It is the only national awards program honoring Latina military and civilian personnel "who through their service have enhanced the role of Latinas in their organizations."

[Chiefs: National Guard, Reserves Should Remain Strong, Operational](#) (National Guard Bureau, By Sgt. 1st Class Jim Greenhill) Gen. Frank Grass, National Guard Bureau – "We have the best military and the best reserve components we have ever had in our history," Grass said. "These young men and women expect to deploy. They joined since 9/11. They know what they're getting into. They want predictability, as much as possible, but they do want an opportunity to deploy."

[General Shares Women's Role In Combat](#) (*Ledger-Enquirer*, by Larry Gierer) Brig. Gen. said hears talk about the role of female soldiers and whether they should be in combat. She wants to let people know they are already there. Thousands of women are wearing a Combat Action Badge. She has one along with a Bronze Star.

[Event Brings World Flavor to Fort Leonard Wood](#) (*My Guidon*, By Dawn Arden) Maj. Gen. Leslie Smith, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence - "The relationships that you (international students) establish while you're here with our Soldiers and their Families are life-long. Make sure you understand what that means and what makes it special to us; special to America and special to your nation."

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Army.mil

Soldiers Virtually Step Inside Mission with DSTS

By Melissa K Buckley

The Dismounted Soldier Training System on Fort Leonard Wood can take Soldiers anywhere in the world to train -- from the comfort of a climate-controlled environment.

Pvt. 1st Class Brandon Duff, Company B, 84th Chemical Battalion, said the system is so real that when he's training he forgets he's actually on Fort Leonard Wood.

"At first, it's kind of shocking how real it is," Duff said. "After a few minutes inside you kind of forget that you really are on the outside. You get into it and see yourself as your avatar. When they shut the lights off, and you are in your goggles and everything, it really makes it feel like it's you in there. When they flip the lights on, it's like back to reality."

While using the DSTS, each Soldier is issued an individual wearable immersive training system and an instrumented weapon.

The helmet-mounted display includes an integrated head tracker, noise cancellation stereo headphones and a microphone for voice and radio communications. The computer backpack is for processing and display of the 3D virtual environment. Sensors are attached along the arms and legs for tracking body positions. The weapon is instrumented with optics, sights and scopes.

"It's pretty much just like you see on the movie "Avatar." You get in, you raise your hands -- it raises it's hands, you raise your weapon -- it raises it's weapon, you turn and look -- it turns and looks, it does everything you do," Duff said.

With the DSTS's nine virtual manned modules, Soldiers experience the scenarios as a platoon.

Capt. Zebulon Pike, Company B, 84th Chemical Battalion, commander, said one of his favorite things about the DSTS is that he was able to design his own mission for his Soldiers to complete.

"This DSTS is phenomenal in the sense that it allows us to utilize actual operational environments in Afghanistan, Iraq or wherever we want. This scenario was a product of my two tours of duty in Iraq. I wanted to reinforce warrior task and battle drills, and their HAZMAT (hazardous materials) training," Pike said.

Pike had the DSTS team add a sniper trap toward the end of the scenario.

"Some of them ended up getting killed. The lesson was situational awareness. This happened to my unit when I was an infantry platoon leader. Now, they know how to break contact with a sniper. Good lessoned learned," Pike said.

Another positive feature of the DSTS for Pike is the system can be used no matter what Missouri's weather is like.



His Soldiers, in their final week of Advanced Individual Training, were using the DSTS while wearing Mission Oriented Protective Posture Level 2 gear -- which according to Pike can raise the body's temperature 12 to 15 degrees.

"As a commander, I'm concerned about risk when it comes to heat. Here we are able to train in an air-conditioned environment which lowers the risk," Pike said.

When Soldiers completed the mission they gathered in the after-action reviewing area for the briefing by Pike.

After completing the mission and watching his avatar move through the scenario Duff said he learned a lot -- especially attention to detail.

"I realized that even though it is virtual, the attention to detail is the same it would be in the real world," Duff said.

The DSTS is available to be used by any unit on Fort Leonard Wood. To schedule a time call 596.4604.

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Fort Lee Traveler

BOLC Instructor Selected For LATINA Style Award

Ray Kozakewicz

FORT LEE, Va. -- Capt. Nyraliz Sanabria-Rivera, a Quartermaster BOLC instructor/writer, Army Logistics University, has earned the national LATINA Style Distinguished Service Award for 2013.

She will be honored at a military service luncheon, co-hosted by the Department of Defense, in Arlington on Sept. 5. The magazine annually honors the accomplishments of women serving in the Armed Forces to coincide with Hispanic Heritage Month activities.

Awarded to just two women in the Army for each year, the Style award recognizes service, leadership, accomplishments, and commitment to building a strong community. It is the only national awards program honoring Latina military and civilian personnel "who through their service have enhanced the role of Latinas in their organizations."

"I was very honored and surprised, because I had no idea I had been nominated," said Sanabria-Rivera who comes from a strong military family and enrolled at a military academy in Puerto Rico when she was nine.

"Back then, I didn't understand," she said, "but if I had a birthday, the present would be combat boots or an officer guide like I received on my 18th birthday. I was really upset about it then."

Her role model is her stepfather who encouraged her to pursue a military career. He is a retired chief warrant officer 3 – one sister is a retired Air Force major, another sister is a former Air Force nurse and her older brother is a retired Army sergeant first class.

"My mom wanted me to become a doctor," she noted. "I understood, however, that going to college and joining the Army would make me a better civilian."

Her mother is supportive of her career, and plans to attend the award ceremony. "She screamed on the phone when I called to tell her."

Sanabria-Rivera was born and raised in Puerto Rico, and earned her commission as a second lieutenant in the QM Corps through the University of Puerto Rico Reserve Officer Training Corps. She graduated in May 2005 with a bachelor's in general science in techniques and methods of investigation. She served five years as an enlisted Soldier with San Juan's 807th Signal Company as an automated logistics specialist.

After attending the QM Officer Basic Course at Fort Lee, Sanabria-Rivera was assigned as the maintenance platoon leader for Bravo Company, 204th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) at Fort Hood, Texas. While assigned there, she deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2005-2007.



In 2007-2009, she again deployed in support of OIF, this time as the executive officer, 1-66th Armor Regiment, Combined Arms Bn.

Returning state-side, she attended the Combined Logistics Captain's Career Course and the Petroleum Officer Course. She was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 27th BSB, 1st Cavalry Div. as the S-3 operations officer.

In March 2010, she assumed command of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 27th BSB, 1st Cavalry Div. She led the company through reset, full spectrum operations training and stability operations training, deployed, and redeployed them in support of Operation Dawn where she served as their commander.

The citation she will receive reads, in part, "... has distinguished herself by continually making significant contributions to America in the areas of equal opportunity and public service, both within the civilian community and the U. S. Army. While assigned as an Instructor for the Quartermaster Basic Officer Leader Course, Captain Sanabria-Rivera's exceptional leadership abilities, coupled with her vast technical and tactical competence, exemplified professional excellence during the execution of her duties. ... her efforts personify her absolute dedication to duty commitment to excellence, and genuine care for Soldiers' welfare and mission accomplishment"

As an instructor at ALU since January 2011, she focuses on giving back and sharing her experiences. "When I see an international student or someone who has a language barrier, I try to help them overcome those challenges and succeed in the course," she said.

She wants to make all her students better leaders and provide better tools.

"I want them to learn to make mistakes here so when they go to the operational world, they know not to make the same ones. I want them to know that this is a safe environment."

The captain said that this honor has provided additional motivation for her. "I feel more responsible to give back much more now." She is active in planning the upcoming Hispanic Observance Month activities at ALU in the beginning of October. Approximately 2,000 people are expected to attend with representation from 21 countries.

"Any job I do, I want to do the best I can."

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National Guard Bureau

Chiefs: National Guard, Reserves Should Remain Strong, Operational

By Sgt. 1st Class Jim Greenhill

ARLINGTON, Va. - The National Guard and reserves should remain strong operational forces, senior leaders of the seven reserve components said recently.

"We need to continue to engage in the operational missions of our services," Army Gen. Frank Grass, chief of the National Guard Bureau and a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said at a reserve chiefs panel discussion at the Reserve Officers Association 2013 National Security Symposium.

"We have to look like the Army and the Air Force, and we have to have missions that get us into the fight so we can continue to grow leaders that can be ready at a moment's notice anywhere in the world," Grass said.

Marine Lt. Gen. Richard Mills, commander, Marine Forces Reserve, said active duty and reserve forces should train, operate and deploy together to maintain readiness.

The chiefs discussed the appropriate mix of active duty and reserve component forces as the Defense Department faces cuts in money because of an ongoing sequester. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel also has ordered a Strategic Choices and Management Review - the SCMR, dubbed the "skimmer" in policy circles - to study the size of the force.

And defense leaders are shaping the Components Program Objective Memorandum for the 2015 fiscal year. The final product of the Defense Department programming process, the POM outlines the military departments' resource allocation decisions, which in turn are based on Strategic Planning Guidance and Joint Programming Guidance, according to Pentagon librarians.

"All the key decisions about the size of our military, the weapons, the active component / reserve component mix, these things are being decided," explained retired Marine Maj. Gen. Arnold Punaro, who facilitated the discussion. "They're being decided in a world of increasing threats and decreasing resources."

Among options under consideration: a smaller, well-equipped, well-trained force.

If active duty force reductions are associated with increased risk, then Army Maj. Gen. Marcia Anderson, representing the Army Reserve on behalf of its chief, suggested one solution lies in the reserve components.

"By increasing your capabilities within the reserve components, you mitigate that risk significantly," Anderson said.

"Why pay for something every day, 24/7, when you can put it in the reserve component and have it only when you need it?" said Air Force Lt. Gen. James Jackson, chief of the Air Force Reserve.



"One of the best things the Army ever did was adopt the ARFORGEN model," Grass said, as the panelists discussed a solution that might look like a combination of varying stages of readiness within the reserve components rather than an entirely operational reserve.

The ARFORGEN - Army Force Generation - model envisions all Army units in one of three pools: Reset, Ready or Available.

"Everyone is in a cycle," Grass said. "People do need a break."

Said Navy Vice Adm. Robin Braun, chief of the Navy Reserve, "There needs to be room in the reserves for people who can only give 38 days a year."

"You're going to have some people who are going to have to be ready to go at a moment's notice," Anderson said.

An operational reserve force helps to ensure that active duty units get the so-called dwell time - time home in garrison - to reset, Mills said. And with a smaller active duty force, he said, "You've got to have a reserve that's ready, enabled and trained to go out the door fairly quickly."

Jackson said he doesn't even like the terms "operational" and "strategic" when applied to the reserves. "There's too much baggage with them," he said, preferring to think of reserve forces as a mixture of operational capacity, surge capacity and strategic depth.

"This is not and should not be an 'us versus them'," Punaro said, referring to the active duty and reserve components. "This should be a hand-in-glove situation. We're all in this together. ... The Guard and reserves bring tremendous capacity to the active components. ... This capacity is not at their expense."

Cuts should be made strategically rather than across-the-board, reserve leaders said.

"This is a perfect time to look to see what mission areas we can move into the reserve components and then, as we draw down on the active component side, take advantage of those great Sailors who are leaving the active component and move them into the reserve component," Braun said. "Let's keep them in a part-time status and take advantage of all that great training and experience that they've had over the past five or 10 years."

Retaining good active duty service members by welcoming them into the Guard and reserves makes financial sense, reserve leaders said.

"If you keep a citizen-airman for life, whether in the Guard or reserve, you retain that half-a-million-dollar investment for the first six or seven years of that training," Jackson said. "Why throw that all away?"

But, Jackson added, "You can't bring them in if you don't have the positions to do it."

"We have the best military and the best reserve components we have ever had in our history," Grass said. "These young men and women expect to deploy. They joined since 9/11. They know what they're getting into. They want predictability, as much as possible, but they do want an opportunity to deploy."



And they have proven themselves since Sept. 11, 2001, said Mills, who came to his present assignment from the active duty side.

"I come to the reserve components with the greatest respect because of what I saw on the battlefield, both in Iraq and Afghanistan," he said. "I was privileged to have reserve forces - both organic units and individual augmentees - under me in Afghanistan, and they just did a magnificent, magnificent job."

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Ledger-Enquirer

General Shares Women's Role In Combat

By Larry Gierer

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For full story go to: <http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/2013/08/27/2655701/general-shares-womens-role-in.html>

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My Guidon

Event Brings World Flavor to Fort Leonard Wood

By Dawn Arden

Without having the hassle of dealing with airlines and customs, the Fort Leonard Wood community was able to visit with 87 international students from 37 different countries, all at Nutter Field House for the "Know Your World" reception Friday.

From Albania to the Ukraine and almost everywhere in between, the students gathered to help share their cultures and for some even a little taste of home.

Colorful displays, artifacts, and rich smelling foods from far away lands, filled the tables.

Maj. Gen. Leslie Smith, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence and Fort Leonard Wood commanding general, thanked all of the students for sharing and the military Families that sponsored them.

"The relationships that you (international students) establish while you're here with our Soldiers and their Families are life-long. Make sure you understand what that means and what makes it special to us; special to America and special to your nation," Smith said.

Some brought their Families out to learn more about the places they have visited during their military career.

"I came out so that my daughter and grandmother could experience 'Know Your World' and see the different personnel from the International Detachment," said Master Sgt. Brian Mincey, MSCoE Equal Opportunity office. "I'm up to seven (countries) myself, some I've been deployed to and others I've just visited."

The reception was presented by the International Military Student Office and is in its 13th year.

Visitors were asked to pick up a passport at the door to log in information such as language, weather, food, and something interesting, for each country they visited with.

The IMSO offers an International Military Student Friendship Program in which American military Families can sponsor international students. This program is a chance for host Families to help the students learn about American Family life and activities.

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